



Historical Sketch

Read at the


Semi-Centennial

of the

New Haven Orphan Asylum,

North Church,

February 26th, A. D. 1883.



THE
NEW HAVEN
ORPHAN ASYLUM
Semi-Centennial.

MONDAY EVENING, FEB. 26TH, 1883.

1833

1883

PROGRAMME.

ANTHEM.

READING OF SCRIPTURE,

Rev. Mr. Lines

SINGING,

“ Wake a song of gladness,
Wake a song of praise.”

Choir and Children

PRAYER,

Rev. Dr. Hawes

SINGING,

“ Open the door.”

Children

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

HYMN 457,

Congregation

ADDRESS,

Prof. Northrop

ADDRESS,

Rev. Dr. Todd

DOXOLOGY.

BENEDICTION.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

In February, 1833, fifty years ago, New Haven was not the large and bustling city it now is. Its population numbered but little over 10,000, instead of the present 60 or 70,000. Everybody knew where everybody lived; a city directory had not been dreamed of. There was a daily mail from New York, but it came by stage and was not to be confidently relied upon by gentlemen eager for Webster's or Calhoun's last speech in Congress. Perhaps this February was a month of heavy snows, certainly the *Connecticut Herald*, issued on the 26th day of it, contains two items that look that way, viz: that the New York stage had not come through for four days, and the stage for Hartford had upset a mile from New Haven. This very *Connecticut Herald* was only a weekly. In these days there were still chatty breakfast tables; master and mistress were their own autocrats, and were not silenced or dominated by the morning paper, as at present.

Our Orphan Asylum was started in a pleasant, human sort of a way. The first public intimation of it is a notice in the *Connecticut Herald*, of Feb. 18th, of "A meeting held with a view to encourage the establishment of an Orphan Asylum." Dr. Jonathan Knight and Dr. Croswell, pastor of Trinity Church, find suddenly left upon their hands four little orphan children, the youngest only a few weeks old. The two good men, physicians, one to the body, the other to the soul, have met at the bedside of the dying mother; the father had died of cholera a few months before. They cannot bear to send the children to the Almshouse, so, *knowing the ladies were ready* to commence the work, they call a meeting of gentle-

men to encourage them in it. Many a talk there must have been before this, over "those poor little Daniells children." Many a motherly heart must have compassionated them and planned for them, and now the husbands and fathers step in to pledge their support to the plans. At the meeting these resolutions were passed: "1st. That this meeting cordially approve of the design proposed by several ladies of this city, to establish an Asylum for the protection and education of destitute orphans within the city, and will most cheerfully unite with them in any measures calculated to effect this desirable object. 2d. That Messrs. Silliman, Boardman, Knight, Brewster and Winthrop, be a committee to communicate to the ladies alluded to in the preceding resolutions, the sentiments of this meeting with regard to their benevolent design, and to co-operate with them in its prosecution."

The ladies were so effectually encouraged that they met, on Feb. 26th, to organise. They met in Franklin Hall, a large room frequently used for college festivities, on the second floor of what had been the stage house and main hotel of New Haven, a long, white, wooden building, with a gilded bust of Franklin in front, on the corner of Church and Crown streets, nearly opposite the present Post Office.

At this meeting a society was formed under the name of "The New Haven Female Society, for the relief of Orphans, Half Orphans and Destitute Children." A constitution, that disagreeable but necessary thing, was read, and officers chosen. This constitution was retained, as originally drawn up by Henry White, Esq., until 1874, when it was revised, mainly by our President, Miss Foster, with great care and pains. It has been rewarding to find that since the revision it has not only worked well in our own institution, but has been helpful to others, who have adopted many of its provisions and have sent their thanks for its suggestions. The charter given by the Legislature in 1833 has been amended, or revised, twice since. The ladies whose names appear in this charter were as follows: Mrs. Abram Heaton, Mrs. Jonathan Knight, Mrs. Wm. Bristol, Mrs. Francis Winthrop, Mrs. Benj. Silliman, Mrs.

Charles L. Strong, Mrs. Abel Burritt, Mrs. Daniel Whiting, Mrs. Charles Atwater, Mrs. Henry White, Mrs. Elias Hotchkiss, Mrs. Eleazer T. Fitch, Mrs. Abigail Hull, Miss Fanny Miller *and others*. We can only wish the *others* had all been named in full. Of this number only Mrs. Henry White, and Mrs. Whiting, now Mrs. Brainard, are living. Mrs. Heaton was the first President.

These ladies were given a committee of gentlemen, called "Advisers," to assist them in important decisions. It was not until 1865 that the Legislature, in view of the property acquired by the institution, constituted this committee a Board of Trustees. I give the names of those among these Trustees who have held the office twenty years, or nearly that time:

Wm. W. Boardman.	Sidney M. Stone.
Dr. Jonathan Knight.	Atwater Treat.
Wm. Fitch.	R. S. Fellowes.
Benjamin Silliman.	Abram Heaton.
Henry White.	Wyllis Warner.

Of course, this by no means includes all the early friends of the Asylum. Among others who gave to it in 1833 or 1834, we find the names:

Dr. Croswell.	Col. Trumbull.
Noah Webster.	Sam'l St. John.
Joel Root.	John Anketell.
Amos Townsend.	M. G. Elliot.
Thaddeus Sherman.	J. Forbes and Son.
Elihu Sanford.	Asa Bradley.
Abram Bishop.	Deacon Geo. Smith.
S. B. Chittenden.	Alfred Daggett.
Prof. Woolsey.	Aaron Skinner.
Titus Street.	Timothy Bishop.
James Brewster.	Dr. Hunt.

The constitution and the officers were excellent things for the children, but next to them must be a house. So seems Dr. Knight to have thought, for we next find him buying a cottage on Grove St., near Church, the one occupied not long ago by the Misses

Churchill's school, and immediately renting it to the ladies at \$80 a year. It did not take long to furnish this little Grove St. house; the hearts of its friends were big and it was not. The first quilting party held in its parlor is still remembered, and how it was laughingly moved and carried that each lady should write her name on a square of their first Asylum quilt. By the first week in May, the Daniells children, who had been scattered among friendly families, were brought together under its roof. Three new children, from the Almshouse, were also brought in, but the young matron, Miss Amelia Goodyear, aged twenty-four, was quite able to look after them all, at the salary, as it was called, of \$75 for the first year.

The Asylum has been blessed in its matrons; there have been but seven in all:—Miss Goodyear, Miss Colburn, Miss Bush, Miss Williams, Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Bardwell, and Mrs. Kingsley, who has been with us longest of all. They have all been women who loved the work and did it well, making the children both love and respect them, and regretted at their departure by children and managers.

But to return. At the end of this first year it is thought best to buy the Grove St. house. The Secretary wisely remarks at the close of her first report: "The location is as good as could possibly be selected, being retired and yet convenient to the city, and the lot (65 ft. front and 200 ft. deep) is sufficiently large for building any additions that will *ever* be required." The purchase was effected in 1835, the price paid being \$1125.00. This was the day of small things. It was perhaps easier to be personally interested when one could run in any time at the little Asylum around the corner, and could know each child by name; when Dr. Knight could send in the milk from his cow, and Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Prichard, and the other kind ladies, could rummage out from their attics what would just fit into this corner, or that space, in the needy little building. Your historian never knew most of these kind, good people, but in collecting the records of their work she is constantly reminded that it seemed very small in their own eyes; they did not realize that in each little gift they were helping on a

work which should endure so long as this city endures; that the hours and strength, snatched for this from their busy days, had a stronger flavor of immortality about them than the rest, for their influence would *surely* reach out over many generations. When in 1835 Mr. Heaton sent a Christmas dinner to the fifteen children in whom his wife was so much interested, did he fancy for a moment that he should go on doing that, and his daughter, Mrs. Robertson, after him, to this very winter of 1882-3? And yet that is a very poor, matter-of-fact way of putting it; did he think he was fostering an *undying* charity, was only standing among the first in an innumerable, unending procession of earnest workers?

It may be interesting to know what it cost to support a child at this time, when potatoes were 60 cts. a bushel, whale-oil \$1.12½ a gallon, and eggs 12 cts. a dozen. While the number was small it cost \$1.00 a week; as it grew the cost sank to 75 cts. a week. But there was always difficulty in meeting the expenses. The first contribution was from the Dorcas Society, *the* sewing circle of New Haven, at which small sums, ninepences, quarters and half dollars, were contributed for the Orphans. In 1836 a united service was held in one of the principal churches, a sermon preached in behalf of orphans and destitute children, and a collection taken, amounting to \$80.61. This united service was continued until 1850, but the sum raised was never very large, usually less than \$100, rising once to \$300, and when in 1850 it was given up and each church took its separate collection, each one was often as large as the whole previous contribution.

The encouraging result of this change was most opportune, for in this very year, 1850, the Secretary, Miss Blake, now Mrs. McWhorter, says: "All the income to be depended upon is the \$1.00 subscription of 250 ladies."

In 1838, during Mrs. James L. Kingsley's presidency, the Asylum family had so increased that it was necessary to buy or rebuild. So a house was bought in Oak Street, near Asylum, at an advance of \$750 on the price for which the Grove Street home was sold. This removal taxed all energies. Not only does one of

our present managers still remember the exciting hours she spent as a child, entertaining the children at her own home on the eventful day, but from it dates the joy of every Asylum child's and manager's heart—Donation Day. It began as a house-warming; an innocent tea-drinking of ladies and children, with almost unnoticed cash receipts—the first recorded being \$9.00 in 1841. At the monthly meetings for a year or two before the date of this removal, 1838, and for long after, the ladies sewed on clothes for the children, who were too many to depend longer on casual supplies. For the first two years they stayed to tea, the tea being provided by the two ladies who were visitors for the month, who always took care to have enough left for the children. It appears, too, that after this removal a cow had to be bought, now that Dr. Knight's was so distant.

Somewhere in these years, our friend Miss M. P. Twining, entered upon the Asylum work, soon taking the post of treasurer, whose duties she discharged for thirty-five years, with the most faithful care, and with that admirable judgment which always characterized her.

And now came dark days in the history of the Asylum. There are no records for some years; but in 1844 the Secretary, Miss H. S. Foster, says: "The receipts have not met our expenses, and our little fund, \$594, has been drawn upon. Our reliable income is only \$300, and we are obliged to conduct affairs on the narrow principle of 'Do as well as you are able,' not 'Do as well as is possible.'" It was in this year that Mrs. R. S. Baldwin raised money for bringing the well-water to a pump in the kitchen of the Oak Street house, which then contained twenty-three children. This was a very grand improvement. In eleven years from this time the fund had risen to \$600, six dollars gain, but there were forty-eight children in the crowded little house. It was wearing work to be President of so needy an institution; to be anxious almost from day to day for bread and clothing, instead of being free to help on the children with one's best thoughts and time. After Mrs. Kingsley's presidency of eleven years, we have two shorter

terms to chronicle, Mrs. Charles Atwater occupying the post from 1847 to 1850, and Mrs. Tomlinson from 1850 to 1853. It was found to require almost unlimited time and care, and in 1853 it was taken by one who had both to give, and the consecrated will to give them—Miss H. S. Foster. More truly a Sister of Charity than many who bear that name, she has given her life to this Asylum work, and verily it hath prospered in her hands.

But we have left our story, and at one of its gloomiest crises. It would be impossible to mention all the friends who were raised up for the Asylum from time to time; but the reports of these trying years are full of gratitude to Dea. George Smith, who helped along in every possible way—by advice, by encouragement, and by going about most cheerfully in the ungrateful task of collecting the means for daily bread, in connection with Messrs. Henry White, Henry Kingsley, Wm. C. De Forest and other gentlemen.

While all this business worry was pressing, the internal management of the Asylum seems to have been most successful. When the children were under the exclusive care of one or two, much in the way of character and intellect was needed in that one or two, and much seems to have been granted. The school was necessarily a family school of all ages, but the reports point with pride to the progress of the children in learning. The town helped in the school expenses, at first to the amount of \$36 yearly, then, from 1841 to 1849, \$50 is acknowledged as School Fund. From 1850 to 1866, the appropriation was \$100; but meantime, in 1862, the schools were taken under the care of the Board of Education, and the appropriation ceased to be called School Fund, and was paid as board, at least in part, of those children whom the Town Agent commits to our care, usually from the Almshouse. In this form it has gradually increased until in this fiftieth year of Asylum history, it is \$2,000.

It is interesting to glance over the list of occasional donations, starting from the time of this removal to Oak Street with one of \$495 from a young ladies' fair. Such fairs occur often in it, interspersed with such items as "Avails of two little girls' needle

work," "From some members of the Fire Department," "Prof. Olmstead's lecture," "Sale of flowers." Here comes in a legacy from Mr. Davenport, a toy dealer, of property at that time worth \$8,000, subject to the life interest of his wife. He said his money came mostly from children, and it was right it should go back to them. Then follows, "Benefit of Panorama of Holy Land," "Signor Blitz \$50," and that twice; "Fair held by little girls of St. Paul's Church," "Concerts of Ancient Harmony," "Tableaux Vivants at Miss Dutton's," "Chapel Street Sewing Circle," until we come to the startling item, "Orphans' Fair at Alumni Hall, \$6,384.00" in 1864, and in 1866, "Promenade Concert, \$4,023.00." But long before this another great donation had been made by Mr. James Brewster, who, with his friend Mr. Heaton, had been much interested in this charity from the first. At the Managers' meeting of March, 1854, a letter from Mr. Brewster was read offering to build an edifice for the use of the Asylum, on condition that the town provide the ground, and that the comparatively small building then in use should be transferred to him. These easy conditions were of course complied with. Abram Heaton and E. K. Foster were appointed to solicit a lot from the town, which they did speedily and effectively, for within a month the deed of gift of the present Asylum site was executed. Mr. Sidney M. Stone gave his services as architect and supervisor, a gift of \$2,000. Mr. Austin generously offered his assistance, and the work of building went on rapidly. The Asylum had not hitherto been a beloved and well-known charity in the town. It had received four or five legacies, but no large gifts from living men. Mr. Brewster was a man who had felt it his duty all his life to devote a certain portion of his income to charity, and had conscientiously carried out his convictions. While still a young man, from 1825 to 1832, he was associated with the Rev. Claudius Herriek in maintaining a Sunday service at the old Almshouse, which stood on the lot adjoining the present Asylum premises. He then saw the crying need of some provision for orphan children, and made a "covenant with God" to do something in the future,

as circumstances might warrant. He was led to move in the matter at this special time by a visit made in company with his wife, in 1854, to the crowded Oak Street Asylum. He never regretted the step. It was a constant source of pleasure and thanksgiving.

His offer was to erect such a building as the Managers deemed necessary and convenient. He gave them \$200 to use in visiting other institutions, that they might the better know what they wanted. One can see how his heart grew into the work. In eight years he wanted to build a new wing, and did so; and we find him setting aside \$2,000 as a repair fund, making his gifts amount to \$20,000. His friend Mr. Heaton took pleasure in supplementing these gifts; to him the Asylum owes the laying out, grading and fencing of its grounds, the introduction of water, an additional \$2,000 of repair fund, a lot in the Cemetery, and other things. Mayor Skinner presented the 100 evergreen trees which now adorn and distinguish the Asylum enclosure.

While the walls of the new building were rising, the treasury is reported as empty, a debt of \$280, a family of forty-eight, and it must have seemed doubtful to those interested how the removal, with all the attendant expenses, could be effected. But the building helped to furnish itself. Visitors came from far and near to see it, and citizens gave liberally to furnish it, though some of this money was, by a dire necessity, used for daily expenses; the same dire necessity that has compelled, nearly every year until the present one, the use of legacies not expressly appropriated by the testator, in the same way. The needs of the Asylum at this time made so deep an impression upon Mr. Joseph E. Sheffield that he presented it with fifty New Haven and Northampton Railroad shares, from which he intended that it should have some little regular income, and he took care, during many years of depression of the stock, to pay over to the Asylum, from his own purse, the income he had planned it should receive.

The present Asylum was occupied in 1855, but it was hard to get the money for living in it. Measles, scarlatina and small-pox

invaded the new airy building, and brought expenses with them. The best nursing was given, witness the *one* death of these two years of epidemics, but the treasury was overdrawn to secure and pay for it. It would be tiresome to record with particularity these worries about ways and means. But this is, perhaps, the best place to acknowledge the great and continued indebtedness of the Asylum to the physicians of the city for their gratuitous services, beginning with Drs. Knight and Tomlinson, and including Dr. Eli Ives, Dr. Worthington Hooker, Dr. Austin, Drs. Charles Ives and Buddington, who visited during the prevalence of small-pox, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Henry Pierpont, Drs. Foster, Bradley and Hotchkiss. Dr. Pierpont, our regular physician for the last twenty years, gave his services for eight years, and would no doubt have done so longer had not the ladies felt it right to vote to him some small acknowledgment yearly.

The small-pox epidemic, to which allusion has been made, was truly "a time to try men's souls," and women's, too. All the employees left in alarm, except the cook and the temporary matron, who fell ill, though not with the small-pox, and took to her bed. Dr. Cleveland made an appeal from the pulpit for some lady to take care of the school, which was responded to by a young lady visiting in town, a Miss Fanny Graves, from Hatfield, Mass. But this heroic young stranger could not assume entire charge of the institution, nor was it asked of her. Miss H. S. Foster took up her abode at the Asylum, and was assisted part of the time by her sister, Miss Caroline Foster, and by Mrs. Wm. Fitch. Nurses were procured from among the Almshouse women, though not enough for all the care of the sick. None of those who thus braved the disease were attacked by it.

In 1861-2, when the thoughts of all were turned to the saving of the country, the fate of the Asylum seemed to tremble in the balance. The Secretary, Miss E. W. Davenport, writes of the year just passed: "The uncertainty of a future support saddened the hearts and unnerved the hands of the Managers; they were weary of occupying the attitude of paupers when they should be

the almoners of an enlarged Christian liberality, and they went forward in their work, sustained alone by faith in the God of the poor and fatherless." This year the thought of possible dissolution pressed hard upon all Asylum friends. Expenses had made a sudden leap up—not so receipts; and a new class, the children of soldiers, were beginning to crowd in, and still further add to the burden. To this point I quote from a note of Miss Foster's: "It seems as if I could see the Second Regiment (Col. Terry) march on to the Green for a leave-taking, and to receive the stand of elegant flags prepared for them by the ladies; could *hear* the tender farewell speeches, in which the men were *solemnly promised* that during their absence their families should be kindly cared for. How I questioned in my mind whether that promise would be fulfilled. Little did I imagine at the time what an important part our financially poor Asylum was to enact in accomplishing the fulfilment of that promise, not only for the Second, but also for every regiment in the State, by securing from the Legislature aid for indigent families. Another important item is the fact that through the efforts made in behalf of soldiers' children the Asylum was first adopted by the community at large as an institution to be valued, cherished and liberally supported."

It may seem strange that such efforts were necessary, since to Connecticut belongs the honor of maintaining the indigent children of soldiers during the war more generously than any other State. But many fathers enlisted in regiments of other States, leaving their children with no right to the Connecticut bounty, yet these little ones needed food and shelter, and it fell to the Asylum to supply their need. In 1864 it was proposed by the ladies of the city, quite independently of our Managers' Board, to give a grand Orphans' Fair in Alumni Hall. The offer was most gratefully accepted, with the one stipulation, that there be no raffling. This seemed to many a very unnecessary bit of strictness, and dismal results were foretold, but the Fair proved, notwithstanding, a grand success, netting for the Asylum \$6,384.52. The enthusiasm that fired all hearts, and quickened all feminine fingers the whole

North over at that time, and which, in many places, culminated in the Sanitary Fairs, here in New Haven carried through this effort for children whose fathers were fighting in the service of their country. It was not entirely a feminine effort, however, by any means, but received most important aid from Mr. Wm. Fitch, Mr. R. S. Fellowes, Mr. H. O. Hotchkiss, and other gentlemen. This \$6,000 seemed a great result, but in two years it was all swallowed up, and then the gentlemen of the city volunteered a Promenade Concert, to be conducted on strictly temperance principles. This was also a success, bringing in over \$4,000. Meantime, at the close of the war, in 1865, the Executive Committee of the "Soldiers' Rest" had appropriated, *unsolicited*, the balance of funds in their hands, \$2,121, to the use of the Asylum, and a large amount of stores had been sent to it by the officers of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. One cannot help seeing the hand of the Lord in it, as gift after gift pours in. He has inclined the hearts of his people to succor the fatherless, the God of whom he truly is. In 1864-5 Mr. Ezra C. Read, impressed with the precariousness of the Asylum support, made an effort to raise a permanent fund of \$50,000, the income only to be available for Asylum use. Subscriptions were to be binding only in case the whole sum was made up. This was not done, but most of the subscriptions were paid in, so that it now amounts to about \$35,000. It is held by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, quite independent of the Asylum management. On the other hand, the "General Fund," as it is called, is in the hands of the Trustees of the Asylum, and amounts at the present time to about \$40,000.

It is certainly true that nothing makes you feel as much like giving as *giving*, and so it proved in this case. New Haven's gifts at Donation Day increased greatly in these years of generous out-pouring in other ways. It was not until 1873 that Donation Day blossomed out anew in the "Solicitation Tour," which now brings it to the notice of the city, and culminates in the gay procession of loaded wagons with flags and music, and much shouting from the Asylum children. Mayor Lewis, E. E. Hall and John B.

Hotchkiss, were the chief workers in inaugurating this movement, so important to the very life of the Asylum. Perhaps it is not generally known how very important this is; it may be thought that the Asylum is a comparatively rich institution. It certainly has an income of about \$3,500 a year from its various funds, and the town has paid to it this last year or two \$2,000, making \$5,500 in all. But it has 130 children to feed and clothe, and the closest economy will not bring their food, clothing and care below two dollars per week for each child, which mounts up to \$13,500 in a year. So that it is easy to see how welcome was the \$7,333 of last Donation Day, and how, even after such generosity, legacies may have to be used, and even the general fund somewhat encroached upon, to meet the regular expenses. There have been large bequests made to the Asylum, subject to various life interests, which will probably, in the future, add greatly to its income. Let us hope that they will not subtract from the love of its friends, but increase the efficiency of its work.

Now we have spent a good deal of time on the Asylum history, its originators, its benefactors, its houses, the ups and downs of its money affairs, and have said little or nothing of its little inhabitants, the 1600 little reasons for its existence that figure on its books. Who are they? How do they come here? Are they tolerably healthy and happy? What becomes of them?

And first, who are they? Visitors sometimes say, "These children cannot be from the poorest class." But we can reply emphatically that most of them are. There is always a careful investigation before receiving a child; there must be, as to receive a child means to assume, on behalf of the community, an expense of \$100 a year for perhaps ten years. Such investigation leads to the estimate that three-quarters of the poverty thus relieved is caused by intemperance. We rescue children from what seems a hell upon earth, sometimes. Often, however, there has been sickness, and the poor, hard-working mother, who has hitherto kept her flock together, can do so no longer; if we can only tide her over this hard spot she will gladly welcome them home again. Then how glad

we are that our charter includes destitute and half-orphan children. This lending a helping hand to those who are temporarily under a burden too heavy to bear alone, is one of the pleasantest parts of our work. But our charter does not allow us to take all orphan children; they must belong to New Haven before they can belong to us, and the fact that they all do belong in this town of ours gives them a claim upon us and makes it our interest, as well as pleasure, to do well for them. Who was it that said: "Would you do a truly disinterested act, do it to the little child who can neither understand what you do nor make you any return"? I do not know, but it is a beautiful and true saying, and that is just the kind of act that we as Christians, or as mere loving human beings, fain would do. But to us, as towns-people, this other pithy saying comes more forcibly: "For every child gathered into the Asylum and sent out to a home where it will be taught to lead a useful life, the Jail may be spared an inmate, the Almshouse a pauper."

We have told of the process of admitting a child to the Asylum. In the early days such a child entered immediately into a company of all ages. In school the little ones must have had to do a great deal of plain sitting still, if the older ones were to learn anything from their one teacher. Now the very little ones lead a nursery life, with a motherly matron all to themselves; and when too old for that, are helped in pleasant ways over the hard beginnings of learning by a teacher devoted to them. This is a greater gain than can easily be imagined. If a humble older person, deeply impressed with the importance of the children of the present day, would like to feel that older people too have an excuse for being, let him watch our Asylum children. Their greatest need is more constant contact with mature minds. If we could subdivide them still farther, giving a teacher to every ten, instead of to every thirty or forty, we should send out brighter children. In this way the young ladies, who have taught sewing to the older girls during the last twenty years, have done good they did not plan. Not only have they helped on the making of quilts, rag carpet and under-garments, and unawares set the fashions for many a doll's outfit; but the

children have heard new words, picked up fresh thoughts, learned to meet just so many more human beings. In our hospital room hangs framed a saying of Mrs. Maria Beers Tomlinson, one of our former Presidents: "What these children most need is sympathy and love." One's heart warms toward the loving woman who felt this their need so strongly; but they need, beyond this, contact with more human beings; even unloving ones would be of service in giving a little knowledge of the world outside. They owe much to their teachers, who have many of them generously given of their hard-earned leisure, after school hours were over, to help them on this social side; letting them have little meetings for games and chat, or sometimes for prayer. These prayer-meetings are long remembered, and are often mentioned in the children's letters.

There is a Library at the Asylum, first started in 1865, by an "Easter Gift from an unknown Friend" in St. Paul's Church, \$50, which gift was continued for eleven years. Since then there have been various gifts for the replenishing of the Library, among others a legacy from Mrs. W. Hotchkiss, in 1881. There are play-rooms for boys and girls in the cellar, whose great advantage lies in their furnishing to each child a box for its own belongings, in the way of toys, books, etc. Some of these boxes, by ingenuity, become baby-houses fit to win the heart of any little girl, rich or poor. The children's food is very simple, and evidently suited to them, as proved not only by their excellent average health, but by their power to resist epidemics, when they invade the household. There have been but forty-six deaths among them in the last fifty years, notwithstanding the fact that diseased and sickly children are so often brought to the Asylum. They are plainly dressed, and somewhat uniformly, as that is a great saving of labor, but there is an effort made to vary the cut and color of their clothes from year to year, so that they need not feel singular or conspicuous among the other children in the Sunday school they are so happy to attend. Their life goes on with little event from week to week. Their little world has its ambitions, like ours, and distinction in it is obtained by having one's name upon the Roll of Honor, to be

noticed by all visitors. Then soon after Donation Day there must be great searchings of heart among them, and longings among the naughty ones for a chance to live the year over again, for then are distributed rewards to the best behaved children. Such rewards were first offered in 1878 by Mr. H. H. Bunnell, the generous head, for several years, of the Solicitation Committee, and by Rev. Mr. Pattison. Since then those children who try hardest either to improve, to do best in scholarship, or to be neat, have been admitted to the hope of reward through the gifts of Messrs. H. H. Bunnell, N. D. Sperry, Elias Pierpont, E. S. Greeley, Geo. H. Ford, and Thomas R. Trowbridge, Jr.

In the summer kind friends sometimes treat the children to a trip to Savin Rock, or send in the heaps of strawberries that are needed when so many are to partake. They have learned to count confidently on Capt. Richard Peck's summer steamboat excursion, and we can only hope it does him as much good as it does them. They have bits of gardens, and plant them with varied crops; but fortunately do not depend on them for their only taste of summer vegetables, of which the large Asylum garden yields a good supply. In autumn comes Donation Day, and Thanksgiving with its bountiful dinner, provided for several years, in the early times, by Deacon A. H. Maltby, whom many will remember, and in these later years by Mrs. E. A. Mitchell. Deacon Maltby was perhaps the first offerer of rewards to the children, promising, in 1839, twelve-and-a-half cents to each child who should learn the psalm beginning; "Oh Lord, thou hast searched me and known me."

Christmas has always been a joyful day with the children. The dinner has been mentioned, and in it centers a large share of their anticipations. They usually have a Christmas tree, and often some pleasant entertainment is arranged for them by kind volunteers. In the old reports a Christmas fish-pond is sometimes spoken of, probably taking the place of the tree.

On Sunday, in the old time when the Asylum was in Grove St., the matron took the children to Center Church, where they sat up

by the pulpit, and at any uneasiness among them she felt the eyes of the congregation upon her. Dr. Bacon felt their presence, we may be sure, and was interested in them. He offered prayer at the second annual meeting of managers, and as the secretary, Mrs. Whiting, says, "after leaving the room he quietly slipped in again, taking a seat near the door, to my great embarrassment, as I had just commenced reading the report." He wanted to hear about his juvenile parishioners.

Then and long after they went to church twice a day, but since their removal, in 1872, from the Howe St. Church, which they had long attended, to the North Church, they have left the Asylum but once in the Sunday, starting early enough for the Sunday school, and staying through the afternoon service. The kindly welcome and Christian teachings and helpfulness that have always awaited them in this church have done them untold good. A morning service is held for them at the Asylum, which was first conducted by Deacon Amos Townsend for two years, as long as his strength would allow; and afterwards by Rev. Mr. Whittlesey for seven years, until ill health obliged him to call upon some young men connected with the Y. M. C. A. for assistance. In 1881, one of these gentlemen, Mr. Clarence Willis, took entire charge of this service, which he has but just relinquished. It has always been much enjoyed by the children.

So much for the Sunday. But the training of the children in knowledge of the Bible, in uprightness and in noble thoughts does not end with this day, but is constantly the aim of the teachers and matrons. In 1879 there was a quiet, unforced revival among them, and several who then felt that they became Christians, have since united with the churches where they live.

We seldom have serious trouble with the children. Once in a while, (three times in fifty years, perhaps), a feeling of restlessness will spring up, and perhaps one or two of the older boys try running away, or setting fire to something. Summer is the most restless time; two months with nothing interesting to do. It is then that we wish for some industrial training for our boys, and for more

ease in giving them days in the country and baths in the salt water.

One event must, one would fancy, be much looked forward to and dwelt upon by the Asylum child; its going to a place of service. Every now and then one is called from the school-room, perhaps never to re-enter it again. One would think it would seem to them a little like death. It is certainly a new life, but perhaps they think of it as little as we do of death. Here we touch upon the most anxious part of Asylum work. If it needs wisdom and experience to judge rightly in regard to the admission of children, how much more is required for this first start in their life out in the world. Our plan is to find them homes when they are about twelve years of age, with kind, Christian people, where they will be brought up in good New England ways. We require very full references, and the child goes at first on trial. If the trial proves satisfactory to *both* parties, the child is indentured, usually till it is eighteen years of age. Our regular system of indenture began in 1860, and one hundred and six children have been thus placed out. One hundred and six times have we had occasion to thank the Judges of Probate for their services, always cheerfully given, whether in this or in other connections. During the last thirty years there have been three hundred and fourteen children sent to service places, six hundred and ten returned to the parent, twenty-five taken for adoption, six by selectmen of other towns, seventy-nine by relatives or friends.

We do not mean to leave the children alone with strangers without making sure of their welfare, and we try to visit them at least once a year, or to have them visit the Asylum. Many of them remain on wages after the time of indenture has passed, having grown too fully into the home to easily break away from it. Most of them are in Connecticut, and there are many little clusters of them in different towns, twelve in New Milford for example, who meet at church and in school, and who let us know of each other's welfare. After the war eleven children went from the Asylum to Kansas with New Haven families, friends of our last matron, Mrs.

Bardwell, who also went out for a time. Miss Foster, who knew every child in the Asylum personally, and watched over them with motherly thoughtfulness, used to grieve over the impossibility of doing so by this little colony. But a letter recently received gives most pleasant accounts of the prosperity of most of them. This was the Mrs. Bardwell who was so earnestly loyal during the war, and taught the children to pray every night; "God bless the soldiers, God bless the sailors, God save our country." She kept them posted in the progress of the war, where were fighting the fathers or kinsmen of many of them, and twenty-five or thirty old Asylum boys; and few of them can ever forget that night of Lee's surrender, when she called them from their beds to dress and come out into the still moonlight, to raise the flag and shout and sing hymns of praise, while bonfires were blazing and cannon were booming on the crowded New Haven green.

Friends of the Asylum will wish to know what these children amount to in after life. We think we may say with truth that they turn out as well as the same number of children taken from our rural towns and who are *not* the children of poverty and vice, as so many of these are. There are many cases of more than average respectability among them, young ministers, doctors, business men, girls very pleasantly married; and many of these of the most degraded parentage. But we might give great pain by more particular mention of such cases.

Their letters are often gratifying, not only in the tidings they bring of advance in all good things, but in the way in which they ascribe such advance to Asylum training. On general holidays they like to come "home." At Christmas, in 1878, twenty came to spend the day, and one of them said to the children: "The Asylum is such a pleasant good home; it is a *real* home." One day the matron heard singing in the parlor, and found the visitors assembled there singing "Home, Sweet Home." Another instance of the same feeling came under the eye of one of the managers. It was a young girl who had been unruly and disobedient in the Asylum; every means, kind and severe, of influence and cor-

rection had been tried by the matron, until it was decided to give it up, and send her away. Yet this girl, sometime after, was evidently sad, and suddenly broke out: "I don't see why Mrs. Kingsley doesn't write to me. How would *you* like it, not to hear from home for six months?"

Now these are very simple little incidents, but upon the feeling beneath them our Asylum rests its claim to love and respect. Many an other institution of the kind has finer buildings, finer grounds, proper laundry-rooms, bathing-rooms, gathering-rooms for the children, things, some of which we sorely need; but where will you find one that more truly *mothers* the orphans it draws to its loving care? This spirit of mother-love first started the work fifty years ago in the little cottage on Grove Street, and has been its controlling impulse ever since. Let us workers in a later day never lose it. May the Father above fill us each with it! Then shall the truest prosperity attend us in the unstunted, unthwarted, sweetly ripening characters of the children we care for.

We should not close without a special recognition of her to whom the Asylum owes much of its success. Others have given it money, many some share of time and thought, but only one has devoted forty years and more, in various offices, to the conduct of its affairs, the welfare of its children in small and great things. To her wisdom and patience are due thanks and praise from us all. Those left behind in the work can scarcely get along without her, and no one of us all can dream of filling her place; indeed, it has been judged absurd to ask any one to do so until the work had been reorganized in a way to make that of the President possible to the average woman. Long may she live, and enjoy the blessings that her old co-workers and hundreds of children she has helped call down upon her head.

H. M. PACKARD.

1833—1883.

Young travelers in untried paths—
Is there no hand to lead them?
Lambs wand'ring far from shelt'ring fold—
No Shepherd nigh to feed them?
Treasures cast up by storm and wreck—
Does no one seek, none find them?
Flowers broken rudely from the stem—
Will no one care to bind them?
Ah, then were gentle women's souls
Filled with a tender yearning
To guide, to help, to seek, to save,
Sorrow to gladness turning.
Soon rose the Home, upreared, sustained
By hearts where pity lingers,
And year by year the latch-string hung
In reach of Children's fingers.
Year after year, year after year,
Ranks thinning, filling, ever,
Weak hands upheld by faith and love,
"Barrel and cruse" fail never.
Year after year they come, they go,
Each year with changes laden,
And many a sturdy boy departs,
And many a comely maiden.
Not ours to know if Fortune smile,
Or trials sore oppress them;
We bade them when they left God-speed,
And still we pray, God bless them!

Some reaped reward of honest toil
In quiet country places,
Some sought the city, some strange lands,
Where courage danger faces.

When War's dark cloud hung low, ere rose
For Peace the glad "Hosanna!"
On many a field of strife, "Our Boys"
Upheld the starry banner.

And when the bells, at midnight rung,
Proclaimed the joyful story,
Our children's hands unfurled the flag,—
They sang, "To God be glory!"

As through the Century's half closed gate
We peer with eager glances,
Note where the darkest shadows lie,
And where the sunshine dances,—

Behold the long procession pass,
Hear of those years the story,
"His banner over us" we raise
To whom belongs the glory.

And as Faith greets the Future, while
The Past a moment lingers,
She sees the latch-string hanging still
In reach of Children's fingers.

A D D E N D A .

A CARD.

In the process of collecting data for the use of our historian, many additional facts were ascertained; a few of which, referring more or less to Asylum history, are here given in the belief that they may be of interest to the friends of the Institution. The records of the earlier years are *very* incomplete—in many cases wanting entirely—so that there are doubtless many errors and omissions, both in Sketch and Addenda.

S. E. CHAMPION, *Sec'y.*

PRESIDENTS.

MRS. PHŒBE M. HEATON, (Abram)	-	-	1833 to 1836
MRS. LYDIA KINGSLEY, (James L.)	-	-	1836 to 1847
MRS. MARY ATWATER, (Charles)	-	-	1847 to 1850
MRS. MARIA B. TOMLINSON, (Henry A.)	-	-	1850 to 1853
MISS HARRIET S. FOSTER,	-	-	1853 to 1882

Miss Foster's connection with the work began in 1841 as Secretary.

LEGACIES RECEIVED BY THE ASYLUM.

1837—MRS. MERITT.

1843—ELIHU MONSON.

1845—SAMUEL ST. JOHN.

1853—W. & M. CANADA.

1856—MRS. MARY ANN CLARK.

- 1863—MISS ANNA E. BEACH.
1863—MRS. MARIA ATWATER.
1863—MRS. ADMIRAL FOOTE.
1864—WILLIAM BOSTWICK.
1866—MRS. MARIA S. WILLIAMS.
1866—SMITH TUTTLE.
1866—WILLIAM H. ELLIOTT.
1867—MRS. ELIHU ATWATER.
1867—STEPHEN BISHOP.
1868—MRS. MARIA M. TUTTLE.
1868—WILLIAM LEWIS.
1869—MRS. J. A. HINE.
1869—MISS SUSAN TROWBRIDGE.
1869—MRS. ABIGAIL S. SALISBURY.
1870—MRS. LOIS CHAPLAIN.
1871—JAMES W. GOODRICH.
1871—GAIUS F. WARNER.
1872—MRS. A. H. MALTBY.
1874—MRS. EMILY H. PATTON.
1874—MRS. JANE HUMPHREY.
1874—MRS. ARABELLA UPSON.
1874—MISS ELIZABETH C. DEFORD.
1874—MRS. EMILY BALDWIN.
1875—MISS MARY SALISBURY.
1877—MRS. ELIZA P. TREAT.
1877—MISS SARAH J. THOMPSON.
1877—MISS LUCY STARR.
1877—MORRIS TYLER.
1878—MISS HARRIET J. PERRY.
1878—GEORGE B. RICH.
1878—MRS. ANN M. SMITH.
1879—NELSON A. HOTCHKISS.
1881—MISS LUCY HOTCHKISS.
1881—MRS. MARY A. HOTCHKISS.
1882—MRS. ELIZABETH M. DAVIES.

In only seven years since 1844, have the receipts equaled the expenses; and the deficiency has been, *of necessity*, made up from these legacies which form the General Fund.

These gifts have been in sums from \$33 to that of WM. LEWIS, of \$10,000 (less government tax) and that of SMITH TUTTLE, of Fair Haven, of about the same amount. Only twelve of them have exceeded \$1,000.

Besides these legacies there have been gifts of stock from Harvey Sandford, Timothy Bishop and Dr. E. H. Bishop; that from Mr. Sheffield has been mentioned.

PERMANENT FUND.

In 1864, Ezra C. Read, Esq., proposed to "raise, by subscription, a fund of \$50,000, the income only of which shall be applied to this object."

The following persons contributed to that fund, which amounts to about \$35,000:

JOSEPH E. SHEFFIELD.	JAMES BREWSTER.
EZRA C. READ.	E. C. SCRANTON.
NATHAN PECK.	JOSEPH SAMPSON.
STEPHEN BISHOP. (legacy)	TIMOTHY BISHOP.
N. B. IVES.	ABRAM HEATON.
HENRY FARNAM.	ELI WHITNEY.
PHILLIP MARET.	WILLIAM LEWIS.
JOHN ENGLISH.	C. S. BUSHNELL.
NATH'L A. BACON.	WM. W. BOARDMAN.
ABBY SALISBURY.	BURTON MALLORY.
W. & E. T. FITCH.	WM. SPENCER.
H. W. BENEDICT.	ELIHU ATWATER.
MARY W. NICHOLSON.	R. S. FELLOWES.

Names of original Trustees of Permanent Fund and successors:

WM. W. BOARDMAN.	NATHAN PECK.
WILLIAM FITCH.	EZRA C. READ.

RICHARD S. FELLOWES.

HENRY FARNAM.

E. E. SALISBURY.

GEO. W. CURTIS.

ARTHUR D. OSBORNE.

It is a noticeable fact, in the history of the Asylum, that all extensive movements to aid it, have originated outside the Board of Managers.

CLASS OF CHILDREN RECEIVED.

Besides "Orphan and Half Orphan Children," who, perhaps, have included one-half the number admitted, our Charter names "Destitute Children."

Under this head are entries such as—"From Alms House," "Deserted by Father," or "Mother," "by both," "Father" or "Mother intemperate," or "both;" "Father" or "Mother in Jail;" "Mother in Hospital;" "Parent sick," or "insane," and "Soldier's children."

In October 1861, the first year of the war, two little boys, children of a soldier, were received, their mother having just died; and in the years that followed, no "soldier's child" was refused admittance.

RELIEF OF SOLDIERS' CHILDREN.

The State had, in 1861, passed a "Bounty Act" providing a sum, "not to exceed \$10 per month, to the family of a soldier *during* service, or to one who had died or been disabled in service."

The last payment under this Act, was in January, 1867. The amount disbursed by the State under this Act was \$2,418,514 $\frac{18}{100}$.

After the close of the war, the ladies connected with the Asylum inaugurated a movement, whose far reaching benevolence they did not foresee.

A petition was prepared by them and presented to the Legislature on their assembling in New Haven, May, 1866, praying for "aid for the children of soldiers who had died in service." At

first the application met with opposition, but after a committee from the Legislature had held a long consultation with some of the managers, at Mr. Brewster's residence, and had made repeated visits to the Asylum, investigating all its workings, they reported favorably on the petition; and a bill was passed, June 30, 1866, to take effect the *next day*, granting from the State Treasury the sum of \$1 per week to the children of deceased soldiers in the New Haven Orphan Asylum; and also to those in the Hartford Asylum, and Fitch's Home at Darien.

Seventy-five cents a week was also appropriated to the same class of children, if needy, outside those Institutions.

The actions of the managers having aroused interest, the Legislature in 1868 passed an Act giving \$1.50 per week to *all* children included in Act of 1866.

Under these two Acts the total amount payed out is about \$1,057,589. ^{$\frac{99}{100}$} ; of this, to the New Haven Asylum \$5,778. ^{$\frac{93}{100}$} .

In October, 1875, the last payment was made to the Asylum, all of that class of children in the Institution having reached the age of twelve years.

It is estimated that in 1869 at least 1968 orphan children in the State were thus, in a measure, provided for.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

The Dorcas Society, mentioned in the Sketch, was probably the first benevolent Society among the ladies of New Haven. It was organized Dec. 9, 1814, and was undenominational. Its object was to make and provide clothing for poor church members. The Society continued in active operation till May 1, 1871, and has since continued its chartered existence in order to distribute the interest of a small fund.

In 1832, about a year earlier than the founding of the Asylum, the needs of the poor children in the western portion of the city led to the formation of the "Broadway Charity School Society,"

with Miss Sophia Ives as the teacher and moving spirit. At first she gathered the children from "Poverty Square," as part of the section west of Howe St. was called, into her own house, where she taught them. As the school grew and friends increased, a two-story wooden building was put up on the corner of Whalley Ave. and Howe St., on what was then known as the "President's pasture lot." The lower story was used as a Sunday School room, the upper for the day school, which generally numbered seventy-five.

It was supported in part by the taxes of the ladies who formed the society, and who at their monthly sewing meetings, made clothes for the children, many of whom came from inexpressibly wretched homes.

A share of the money received by the state, from the sale of "Western Reserve" lands in Ohio, was given to the School by the city.

The School continued many years under different teachers, after Miss Ives' death.

In 1836 the Society united with the Orphan Asylum, in an appeal to the state for the "Roylance property," but not being incorporated, the petition was presented in the name of the Asylum only. It was granted, and the rent of the house, \$9.00 a year, was divided between the two Societies.

In 1845 the house was sold for \$250, and the money also divided.

NOTE.

The petition presented to the Legislature, in May, 1836, sets forth that "William and Anna Roylance, did by the practice of deceptive beggary, and by imposing upon the kind feelings of the people, accumulate property; and dying without heirs or will—the same reverting to the state—pray that the state relinquish its title, that the same may be distributed in charity as was originally intended."

The property consisted of a house and lot in Goffe St. and a little money in the Savings Bank.

About the same time, possibly a little later, a number of young ladies, touched by the forlorn condition of a colored babe at the

Alms House, whose mother had just died from the effects of exposure and want, formed a society under the name of the "Ladies Association for the relief of Orphan Children."

A constitution was drawn up by Rev. Amos Blanchard, D.D., of Lowell, Mass.—then a Theological student at Yale—and printed by Rev. Eastman Minor, afterwards missionary to Ceylon.

The Society was formed at Mrs. Isham and Comstock's school, corner of Chapel and Olive Sts., where the young ladies met on Saturday mornings to sew and earn money to pay the board of Joseph Ashmun Applethwaite, who had been taken from the Alms House and was cared for by a Mrs. Grimes.

It has been suggested that this had some connection with the founding of the Orphan Asylum, but as the Society disbanded soon after the death of the child, at the age of six months, it seems to have been an independent movement.

THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

When in 1877 the Board of Education *prohibited* all exercises of a devotional character in the schools, the Board of Managers presented an *earnest* appeal for the restoration of the Bible. The general sentiment of the community favoring the repeal of the measure, it was repealed within a year from its adoption.

ORPHAN ASYLUMS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The New Haven Orphan Asylum was the seventeenth Protestant Asylum founded in the United States:

Savannah, Ga.....	1740
Charleston, S. C.....	1790
Boston, Mass. (Female).....	1800
Baltimore, Md. (Episcopal).....	1801
New York, N. Y....	1806
Baltimore, Md.....	1807
Philadelphia, Penn.....	1814
New Orleans, La.....	1817
Brooklyn, N. Y.....	1823
Portland, Me.....	1828
Hartford, Conn.....	1822
Albany, N. Y.....	1830
Utica, N. Y.....	1830
Boston, Mass. (Asylum and Farm School).....	1832
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	1832
Alleghany, Penn.....	1832
New Haven, Conn.....	1833

At this time there were six Roman Catholic Orphan Asylums and one Jewish Asylum in the country.

